

Ministerium für Bildung, Wissenschaft und Kultur Mecklenburg-
Vorpommern · D-19048 Schwerin

To all students of
Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

Schwerin, 25 March 2020

Dear students

Drastic disruption has occurred to contain the dangerous spread of Covid-19, also at the universities in Mecklenburg-Pomerania. I am well aware that the closure of universities and colleges is a problem for each and every one of you, in different ways.

Not only your academic activities are severely limited, but also the social aspects of your student life. The degree to which you are worried and scared certainly varies, depending on the stage you are at in your studies. We can see this from the numerous phone calls and e-mails that reach us. Answers to the most frequently asked questions can now be found on your university's website and on the website of the Ministry of Education, which is being updated continuously.

I would like to assure you that, in close cooperation with the universities' crisis management teams, the state government – and in particular the Ministry of Science – is working flat out to ensure that this crisis will not have any negative impact on your academic career or your future professional development. The main objectives

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are to uphold the university administration's operability in the most relevant areas, and to compensate for the maximum number of areas of service and operation related to studies and teaching that have had to be suspended in order to avoid personal contact, in digital form.

I would also like to express my gratitude to you. In our discussions with the university administrations, they repeatedly praised their students for their understanding and their great willingness to master the imminent challenges together.

I am very pleased about your restraint in personal encounters, which is serving to break the chain of infection. At the same time, I have great respect for your commitment in the social arena, e.g. in helping people in risk groups or supporting the healthcare system with blood donations. In the future, there will also be a need for psychological counselling (e.g. hotlines) or to recruit personnel for infection chain detection (interviews, counselling). I would be delighted if we could count on your support there, too.

Rest assured that the Ministry of Science in cooperation with the universities is working on good solutions for this semester.

Thank you very much for your understanding, and I hope that the team spirit will carry us through this difficult phase.

Please keep well!

With kind regards



Bettina Martin